

**County Executive  
of  
Howard County, Maryland**

**Executive Order:** 2023- 14  
**Date:** Jan. 31, 2023  
**Subject:** Opioid Collaborative  
Community Council

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive is committed to ensuring and preserving the safety and welfare of every Howard County resident; and

**WHEREAS**, the Opioid Crisis Community Council was created in April 2018 to assist the County Executive in reviewing efforts and identifying new opportunities to address opioid misuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the opioid crisis continues to impact and claim lives in Howard County each year and it is critical to continue to engage in a collaborative, multi-disciplinary, community-wide effort to fight the epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, continued success in reducing the impact of opioid-related consequences, including overdose, can be sustained by continuing to expand prevention, response activities, harm reduction efforts, and increased sharing of ideas and resources throughout the County in a coordinated manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted health systems in Howard County requiring continued adjustments, refinements, and support which will likely continue for many years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, social equity issues are expanding the need to integrate solutions into every area of Howard County's health system, as well as the support systems for those affected by inequity; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary in the opioid crisis to continue to identify gaps in resources, increase access to those services to all residents of Howard County, and to develop prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and follow up care in a comprehensive manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the engagement of the entire Howard County community and all of its stakeholders is essential to effectively address the opioid crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive wishes to continue to receive cohesive guidance from Howard County citizens and agencies in reviewing existing efforts and identifying new opportunities to address the opioid crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, in partnership with the State of Maryland, engaged in investigations, litigation, and settlement negotiations involving certain manufacturers and distributors seeking to hold them accountable for their unlawful conduct and to obtain funds to be used to abate the epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the settlement negotiations resulted in a National Settlement Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the State established a State-Subdivision Agreement with the County to distribute funds in accordance with the core strategies and uses outlined in the National Settlement Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the State-Subdivision Agreement, during Fiscal Year 2023, the Opioid Abatement Fund (OAF) was established as a nonlapsing fund to hold the monies received through the National Settlement Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, now that the OAF is part of the County budget, it is prudent to establish a group to assist in determining priorities for use of funds, to continue to collaborate and plan community events, and to make recommendations as to future actions to assist with determining the best use of funds over the long term.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED** that an Opioid Collaborative Community Council is established. The duties and responsibilities of the Council are as follows:

1. **Opioid Abatement Fund** – The Council shall assist in determining priorities for the incoming OAF monies. In this item, the Council shall determine a process for the allotment coming to the County as a result of current and future national settlements as part of the OAF.
2. **Community events** -The Council shall continue to collaborate with community members by holding events and by providing regular educational items to stay informed of what is happening in Howard County as additional needs arise. This includes continued learning as to developments of behavioral health efforts at the state level.
3. **Long-term plan** – The Council shall consider and make recommendations as to whether a permanent board should be established in Howard County since settlement proceeds will continue to be collected over the next 15 to 20 years.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the Council shall consist of the following voting members:

Barbara Allen	James' Place Inc.
Quinton Askew	211MD
Robin Bartko	Coach/Community Advocate
Sarah Blankenship	Maryland Coalition of Families
Mark Donovan	Congruent Counseling
Joanie Elder	Donleigh House
Beth Harbinson	Family Advocate/SOBAR
Sean Hughes	Attorney/Community Advocate
Mimi Matthews	Clergy
Jack Matthews	Peer Recovery Specialist
Sarah McCoy	Grassroots
Debbie Nix	Parent Advocate
Teron Powell	Silverman Treatment Solutions
Joan Webb Scornaienchi	HC Drug Free
Theresa Thomas	Hilda's Place
Cindy Johnson	Community Representative
John Way	Veteran's Advocate

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED** that the following County staff members shall serve as nonvoting advisors to the Council:

Candace Ball	Howard County Local Children's Board
Margaret Chippendale, Acting Director	Howard County Department of Corrections
Eric Cohn	Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services
Richard Gibson	State's Attorney's Office
Erik Khrum	Howard County Department of Police
James LeMon	Howard County Public School System
Matt Levy	Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services
Dillon McManus	Howard County Health Department Harm Reduction/Peer
Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy	Howard County Health Department
David Sabat	Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Wesley Schreiber	Howard County Health Department, Peer Recovery Specialist
Laura Torres	Howard County General Hospital
Hilari Young	Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Probation/Parole

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that this Council shall present findings to the County Executive as follows:

1. Recommendations related to the Fiscal Year 2024 budget shall be made on or before June 30, 2023;
2. Recommendations related to the Fiscal Year 2025 budget shall be made on or before March 1, 2024;
3. Final findings shall be made on or before July 31, 2024.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that this Council shall cease to exist on August 1, 2024 and the terms of the Council members shall expire on August 1, 2024.

**IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I, Calvin Ball**, as County Executive of Howard County, Maryland have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Howard County to be affixed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2023.

  
 Calvin Ball  
 County Executive

